

These may be reckoned, it appears, at something more than a quarter of the town population.

Education may sober them by offering a wider range of interests : much may also be done by efforts of will—artificially stimulated, it may be, by the taking of pledges. So great is the evil that the richer classes may not unreasonably be asked to deny themselves for the benefit of the community, and to consent to the absolute prohibition of the sale of intoxicants. But men

drink or gamble to satisfy the inherent passion for change or variety of mood, and the most effective method of bridling this propensity is to offer them means of excitement which are less expensive and less degrading. From this point of view we may contemplate with satisfaction the growing popularity of football matches, variety and cinematograph shows.

More numerous again are those whose circumstances must be described as poor, but suffice to provide them with sufficient subsistence, and with some margin for the amenities of civilization. They cannot afford domestic servants : but they live in decent quarters and have some money to spare for simple luxuries.

These are the conditions of about half our population. It is easy to be too gloomy in commiserating their lot. Happiness results from the satisfaction of impulses: lacking strong impulses one could not be happy : with im-

unsatisfied one must be miserable.
But the
impulse of ambition, for instance, may
be satisfied
by small degrees of promotion : moods
may be
changed with no large expenditure:
children
play in the gutter as happily as in the
nursery.

And the working man who takes a
pride in his
work satisfies his provident impulses
quite as
completely as the merchant or
stockbroker who